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NR
3.5(c)

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EO 13526
3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs
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SECRET

3.5(c)

4

NR

3/ //ARGENTINA: ARGENTINE LABOR, THE MILITARY, AND THE PRESS ARE STILL HARSHLY CITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT, DESPITE A SECOND CABINET REORGANIZATION THIS WEEK AIMED AT REDUCING THE INFLUENCE OF THE

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OUSTED LOPEZ REGA.//4

//CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES PRESIDENT RAUL LASTIRI, NUMBER-TWO MAN IN THE PERONIST PARTY AND A RELATIVE OF LOPEZ REGA, WAS ASKED TO RESIGN HIS CONGRESSIONAL POSTS. HE SAID ON JULY 24 THAT HE MAY INSTEAD SEEK A TWO-MONTH LEAVE OF ABSENCE. LABOR EARLIER HAD DECLARED ITS INTENTION TO SEEK TO REBUILD THE PERONIST MOVEMENT AND SELECT NEW LEADERS.//4

//PERONIST POLITICIANS, ANXIOUS TO AVOID A COMPLETE LABOR TAKE-OVER AND INTERESTED IN RIDDING THE COUNTRY OF LOPEZ REGA'S INFLUENCE, JOINED IN THE EFFORT AGAINST LASTIRI.//4

//LABOR, INTRANSIGENT IN THE WAGE DISPUTE LAST MONTH, HAS INCREASED THE PRESSURE ON PRESIDENT MARIA ESTELA PERON BY DECLARING THAT IT WILL "GIVE UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT TO THE LEGAL SUCCESSOR TO THE CHIEF OF STATE." //4

//THE LEGAL SUCCESSOR IS SENATE PRESIDENT LUDER, RECENTLY ELECTED AGAINST MRS. PERON'S WISHES.//4

//DOCTORS HAVE CONFINED MRS. PERON TO HER BED, TOUCHING OFF A NEW ROUND OF SPECULATION THAT SHE WILL REQUEST A LEAVE OF ABSENCE,

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SECRET [redacted] 3.5(c)

b

3.3(b)(1)

POSSIBLY FOR AS LONG AS TWO MONTHS. WHILE HER DIFFICULTIES ARE DESCRIBED BY PRESS AIDES AS THE FLU, SHE IS [redacted] SUFFERING FROM A SEVERE CASE OF NERVES AND TO BE UNDER FREQUENT HEAVY SEDATION. SHE [redacted] LOST A GREAT DEAL OF WEIGHT.//Y 3.3(b)(1)

//MRS. PERON HAS HAD LONG-STANDING PATTERN OF REACTING TO PERSONAL OR POLITICAL STRESS WITH ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION. SHE HAS HAD SEVERE EMOTIONAL REACTIONS IN THE PAST IN THE FACE OF LOSS OF EMOTIONAL SUPPORT.//Y

//WITH THE FORCED OUSTER AND SUBSEQUENT REMOVAL TO MADRID OF HER MAJOR SOURCE OF SUPPORT AND COUNSEL, LOPEZ REGA, IT IS LIKELY THAT HER ANXIETIES HAVE MOUNTED SHARPLY. IN THE PAST WHEN UNDER PRESSURE SHE HAS WITHDRAWN FROM HER NORMAL ACTIVITIES FOR "MEDICAL REASONS."//Y

//A NUMBER OF CONGRESSMEN HAVE DEMANDED AN OFFICIAL EXPLANATION OF MRS. PERONS PHYSICAL CONDITION. SUCH DEMANDS ARE DESIGNED TO FORCE HER TO MAKE A CHOICE BETWEEN ASSUMING IN EARNEST THE DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENCY, WHATEVER THE COST, OR HANDING THEM OVER TO SOMEONE ELSE. A RESIGNATION FOR REASONS OF HEALTH MIGHT BE THE LEAST

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PAINFUL WAY FOR ALL CONCERNED TO PUT AN END TO AN UNTENABLE SITUATION.//Y

3.3(b)(1) //[redacted] ONE FACTION OF THE ARMY NOW FAVORS A MOVE TO OUST HER GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO HALT WHAT THIS GROUP VIEWS AS LEFTIST MANIPULATION OF THE ECONOMY. THE FACTION IS [redacted] LED BY THE CHIEF OF THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF, GENERAL RAFAEL VIDELA.//Y 3.3(b)(1)

//THESE OFFICERS FEEL THAT THE LEFT IS EXPLOITING WORKER DISCONTENT BY FOMENTING A CONTINUING WAVE OF STRIKES AND VIOLENCE. THEY PROBABLY ALSO ARE UNEASY WITH THE RAPIDLY GROWING INFLUENCE OF LABOR LEADERS AND MAY FAVOR A MOVE SOON TO STEM IT.//Y

//FOR THE MOMENT THE FORCES RANGED AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATION STILL SEEM INCLINED TO PRESS MRS. PERON TO RESIGN OR TO BECOME A MERE FIGUREHEAD. (SECRET [redacted] 3.5(c)

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JULY 25, 1975

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